



WEEKLY TREATY UPDATE

27 March 2004 to 02 April 2004

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

OPCW Inspector Training Course Completed

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2 April 2004, www.opcw.org

On 2 April 2004, 19 trainees, participating in the inspector-training course conducted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), graduated and became the newest members of the OPCW Inspectorate. The graduates are nationals of 19 Member States. The OPCW's international inspectors play a crucial role in the global implementation of the chemical weapons ban by verifying both the irreversible destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile, as well as ensuring together with Member States that chemical weapons do not re-emerge. The six-week intensive OPCW inspector-training program included: a comprehensive series of lectures, provided by experienced practitioners in the field of chemical demilitarization and industry verification, case studies and table-top exercises to provide an in-depth understanding of the entire inspection procedure, as well as field-training, exercising OPCW safety procedures and developing hands-on experience with the approved inspection equipment. Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom generously provided support for the inspector-training course. At the graduation ceremony held at OPCW headquarters in The Hague, Acting Director General, Mr. Brian Hawtin, emphasized the responsibility that inspectors bear in effectively and impartially verifying Member States' compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, "You will be working at the cutting edge of international, multilateral verification as part of a regime that has now conducted over 1,600 inspections in 62 countries. Sometimes these missions involve exposure to the world's most poisonous substances. In all cases, you are tasked to maintain strict confidentiality to protect Member States' national security and commercial proprietary information. Member States depend upon your diligence and professionalism to acquire the assurance they seek that chemical weapons will be verifiably eliminated, never to re-emerge."





OPCW 36th Executive Council Convenes, Libya Attends

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 26 March 2004, www.opcw.org

During the 36th Session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), held in The Hague from 23 to 26 March, 2004, the 41-member Executive Council, representing the entire OPCW membership of 161 Member States, convened to consider a number of issues, including: the destruction of chemical weapons, the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities, as well as progress reports on the implementation of the action plans on national implementation measures and the universality of the Convention. For the first time, a Libyan delegation attended the Executive Council. The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force for Libya on 5 February 2004. The Council received a report from the Technical Secretariat of the initial inspection in Libya, undertaken to verify the accuracy of the initial declaration submitted by the Libyan Government on 5 March 2004. The initial inspection was completed on 19 March 2004. Member States expressed their appreciation for Libya's contribution to the OPCW's common goal of the complete elimination of chemical weapons. In its 36th Session, the Executive Council also elected a new Executive Council Chairman, H.E. Mr. José Antonio Arróspide Del Busto, Permanent Representative of Peru to the OPCW, whose one-year term of office will commence on 12 May 2004.

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Belize ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, 29 March 2004 www.ctbto.org

Belize has deposited its instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) with the United Nations Secretary-General on 26 March 2004. Belize's ratification brings the total number of Treaty ratifications to 110. Of the 33 States in the Latin America and Caribbean geographical region, 20 have now ratified the Treaty. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear test explosions. Compliance with the terms of the Treaty is monitored by a global verification regime. The 337-facility International Monitoring System (IMS) is a key element in this regime. It uses seismic, hydro-acoustic, infrasound and radionuclide technologies to detect evidence of possible nuclear explosions. The CTBT was drafted at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, and adopted by the General Assembly on 10 September 1996. It opened for signature on 24 September 1996 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. To enter into force, the CTBT must be signed and ratified by the 44 States that formally participated in the work of the 1996 session of the Conference on Disarmament and that possessed nuclear power or research reactors at that time. Thirty-two of these States have ratified the Treaty.

CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Russia: Tactical Nuclear Weapons Efficient Offset of NATO Advantage in Europe

Agentstvo Voyennoykh Novostey 31 Mar 04 ; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20040331000253

The Russian General Staff should develop a number of efficient countermeasures in order to offset NATO superiority in Europe, Colonel General Viktor Zavarzin, Chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, said on Wednesday. "It is high time the General Staff started thinking about working out deterrence means, including reinforcement of forces in the northwestern strategic direction," Zavarzin told Interfax- Military News Agency. "For instance, it may choose increasing the role of tactical nuclear weapons as a deterrent, while simultaneously retaining the importance of strategic nuclear weapons. Tactical nuclear weapons are not subject to any treaties or agreements," the general noted. Neither does Russia have any limitations on deploying defensive arms on its territory, for instance, the S-300 air defense system, the general said. Given the likelihood of NATO establishing military bases in the Baltic states, Zavarzin also said that it was necessary to cut down on Russia's dependence on military cargo transits via Lithuania. "In addition to that we have to provide for reserve capabilities of military cargo transportation in the interests of the Kaliningrad Special Area, and come up with alternative transportation routes via the Baltic Sea and airspace over it," he emphasized. According to him, Russia also has to work out and use efficient means of economic influence on the Baltic States. "It is essential to correct out unilateral deterrence commitments with respect to the Kaliningrad and the Pskov regions, and the Leningrad Military District, including the adapted Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty,"





Zavarzin said. According to him, the ultimate step of breaking the deadlock may consist in calling an emergency CFE meeting to discuss the possibility of revising certain provisions, which will not change its basis.

Russia To 'Reconfigure' Armed Forces if NATO Forces Posed along Borders Pose Threat *Moscow Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey 30 Mar 04; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20040330000067*

Russia will take adequate responsive measures, even reconfigure its armed forces, if the stationing of forces along its borders poses a threat to its security, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Chizhov told Interfax on Monday. Four of the seven countries that are to join NATO shortly, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Slovenia, have not joined the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, so "a gray zone" has been created in which no restrictions are imposed on weaponry in direct proximity to Russia's borders, he said. "If we feel that the situation poses a tangible threat to our security and calls for an appropriate response, there will be such a response," Chizhov said when asked whether Russia will reconfigure its armed forces in the Northwest. Commenting on the arrival of four NATO F-16 fighter planes and components for an air defense system in Lithuania, he said that "four planes in Lithuania will not in themselves change the balance of forces, but this is a symbolic event that does not make us overjoyed." "We see danger not in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania obtaining vast numbers of tanks and fighter planes overnight. We are concerned about the possibility of armies of third countries being in direct proximity to our borders," Chizhov said.

Russia: Estonian Envoy Says Baltics' Accession to NATO no Threat to Russia

ITAR-TASS 29 Mar 04; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20040329000287

The accession of the Baltic states to NATO will not threaten Russia, Estonian Ambassador in Moscow Karin Jaani said. In an interview with the Ekho Moskvyy radio station on Monday, Jaani said the Baltic states' admission to NATO "is not a threat to Russia." "We don't want to have military bases in our territory and we don't believe that they will be deployed," the ambassador stressed. In her words, Estonia is seeking to cooperate with Russia within the framework of the Russia-NATO Council in order to weaken Russia's concerns. "Estonia doesn't consider any state an enemy. There is a common enemy - international terrorism. It's better for us to fight this evil within the NATO framework," the diplomat noted. At the same time, she recognized, "Russia, NATO countries and other states have no guarantees against terrorism." On the Estonian population's support for NATO's expansion, Jaani said, "A total of 68-69 per cent voted for the admission." Latvian Ambassador to Russia Normans Penke said, "Over the 50 years the Alliance guaranteed security. We share these values and return to Europe." "Today we are NATO," the ambassadors said. They pointed out, "Our countries are ready to ratify the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty" as soon as it comes into effect.

Russia: NATO Expansion Provokes New Spiral of Mistrust

ITAR-TASS 29 Mar 04; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20040329000254

NATO's eastward expansion provokes a new spiral of mistrust between Russia and the North Atlantic Alliance and runs counter the fundamentals of cooperation within the Russia-NATO Council, according to a statement made by the Federation Council Foreign Affairs Committee on Monday. The fight against terrorism and the WMD proliferation that NATO makes attempts to justify structural reforms "does not require the deployment of military bases along the perimeter of Russia's western borders and the hasty accession to the Alliance of the countries that do not ratify the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty - Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Slovenia," the statement says. The committee's chairman, Mikhail Margelov, told Itar-Tass such NATO's eastward enlargement "can be considered pressure on Russia." The committee's members believe, "The parliaments of new NATO members should immediately ratify the CFE Treaty." Under the Russia-NATO Funding Act and the Joint Declaration on New Russia-NATO Relationship, NATO countries "must refrain from the permanent deployment of considerable armed forces in the territories of new members," the statement says. The committee's members said they are hopeful, "NATO's leadership will comply with the previous agreements." Dmitry Rogozin, leader of the Motherland (Rodina) faction in the State Duma, said the deployment of NATO military equipment in the Baltic countries runs counter integration between Russia and the European Union. The Duma lawmaker stressed that the deployment of NATO military equipment and troops in the territory of the three Baltic states would lead to changing the balance of forces in the north of Europe. Under these circumstances, Russia will have to reinforce its military contingent in the Kaliningrad region in order to ensure security, the lawmaker said. But this will be Russia's forced step if its concerns are not satisfied in order to prevent the deployment of NATO military equipment and troops on the northern flank of the European space, Rogozin said.





NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Pakistan government cleared in selling of nuclear material

The Washington Times, March 31, 2004, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/>

A Pakistani network that covertly sold nuclear goods used government aircraft but the Islamabad government was not involved in the transactions, a senior State Department official told Congress yesterday.

John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, said the network led by A.Q. Khan sold nuclear material to Iran, North Korea, Libya and other states. The group, which helped rogue states obtain centrifuges used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, is still being investigated. [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Advocates "Incremental" Nuclear Disarmament

Global Security Newswire, March 30, 2004, http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/

Facing apparent foreign criticism that U.S. policies are undermining global nuclear nonproliferation efforts, a senior U.S. diplomat last week said that a newly emerged "nexus" of terrorism and illicit WMD development argues for "incremental," unregimented nuclear disarmament. "Events of the past few years have introduced a new and destabilizing unpredictability into world affairs," Ambassador Jackie Sanders, the senior U.S. representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said in a speech Thursday to the conference. [Click here for full text.](#)

Experts Form International Nuclear Safety Group

International Atomic Energy Agency Staff Report 26 March 2004 <http://www.iaea.org>

Experts from 15 countries have joined to form the newly constituted International Nuclear Safety Group (INSAG) to provide authoritative advice and guidance on safety approaches, policies and principles at nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. Dr. Richard Meserve, Chairman of the Group, announced the group's formation today at a press briefing in Vienna. "The evolution of nuclear safety is increasingly international," said Dr. Meserve. "This newly formed group of experts will work to identify major safety issues and recommend ways and means to resolve them. We will be serving the IAEA, the nuclear community, and the public." Dr. Meserve, from the United States, is the former head of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and presently President of the Carnegie Institution. He said the group includes experts with high professional competence in fields of safety working in regulatory organizations, research and academic institutions, and the nuclear industry. They are drawn from 15 countries, as well as the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The IAEA will serve as the group's secretariat, under the office of Ken Brockman, Director of the IAEA Division of Nuclear Installation Safety. INSAG's scope of work includes examining - and sharing experience and information about - fundamental safety issues, and current and emerging important matters relevant to the safety of nuclear power plants, research reactors, and other nuclear fuel cycle facilities. Issues of nuclear security will be addressed insofar as they relate to safety at these installations. The group - which was newly formed at the request of IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei - held its inaugural meeting at the IAEA in late October 2003, and held additional meetings this week. Meetings are planned twice a year, with the next scheduled in Vienna this November. Members of the group are from Canada, France, Finland, Russian Federation, Spain, Germany, Brazil, United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Japan, Hungary, India, China, and the NEA/OECD.

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Kenya to host international conference on mines 29 November

Agence France-Presse, 01 Apr 04; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID AFP20040401000013

Kenya will this year host an international conference to review global conventions on land mines. It will be the first of its kind and has been dubbed the 'Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World: the First Review of the Ottawa Convention (on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines). The meeting is planned for 29 November and 3 December and Kenya is to designate a secretary-general for the conference. World leaders, including the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and heads of state are expected to attend. This was disclosed yesterday during a meeting between key people from the media, civil society, private sector, the diplomatic community and individuals and organizations already working to boost the convention against land mines. Kenya is among the 142 states that have ratified the Ottawa Convention, thereby undertaking never to use, produce, develop or transfer anti-personnel mines, and





promising to destroy them be they in stockpiles or on the ground. All sub-Saharan African states are party to the convention, except for Ethiopia (which has signed but not yet ratified) and Somalia. Together, state parties to the Ottawa Convention have so far destroyed over 31 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines. Kenya completed destruction of its stockpile last August.

Tajikistan Destroys Last Batch of Antipersonnel Mines

Dushanbe Tajik Radio 1, 31 Mar 04 in FBIS, FBIS Document ID CEP20040331000111

The last batch of 200 antipersonnel mines were destroyed at a military testing range of the Tajik Defense Ministry near Dushanbe this morning. The country has thus fulfilled its obligation as a member of the Ottawa Convention on prohibiting the antipersonnel mines. Tajik army engineers have eliminated over 3,000 antipersonnel mines within a period of just two years.

EU to Offer Euro 11 Million for Mine Clearance Projects in 2004

Europe Information Service March 27, 2004 accessed via lexis-nexis

The European Commission announced on March 25 that it was setting aside Euro 11.3 million for its 2004 annual work program for anti-personnel landmines, to help developing countries clear the mines and return to normality. The focus in 2004 will be Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia/Abkhazia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Angola, Eritrea and Peru/Ecuador. A further Euro 7.2 million will be approved by the Commission later in the year to support specific targeted projects. The main priorities in the 2004 Work Program are to remove the threat that anti-personnel landmines/unexploded ordinance (APL/UXO) represent for the affected populations, through mine clearance, mine risk education, risk reduction and destruction of landmines in stock or on dumping grounds. The other areas of work will be building and reinforcing local capacity and increasing mine-action efficiency and effectiveness (impact surveys and associated tools). The target countries were selected on four criteria: accession to the international Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Convention) or efforts to comply with it, humanitarian impact of the mine problem, prioritization of the issue in the national context, and strategic importance for the EU. The Commission's mine action aims at eliminating the danger which anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ammunition represent for populations, and at limiting the social and economic effects of this plague. This action can take the form of surveys, mine clearance, training, stockpile destruction, risk education and awareness, victim assistance and rehabilitation, as well as other activities contributing to the reduction of the human, economic, and environmental impact of landmines.

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

India, US to Hold Talks on Proliferation Security Initiative

Mumbai The Times of India, 30 Mar 04; in FBIS, FBIS Document ID SAP20040330000011, "Indo-US proliferation talks soon"

The next round of dialogue on proliferation between India and the US will take place in Washington later this week. Senior officials are set to explore the possibility of Indian participation in the US-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). The PSI, which forms the bedrock of US President George W Bush's muscular approach to the threat of the spread of WMDs [Weapons of Mass Destruction] envisages the interdiction of international shipping on the high seas by 'coalition' navies acting under overall US command and control. During his visit to New Delhi earlier this month, US secretary of state Colin Powell invited India to join PSI, which currently has 14 members. The Indian side is understood to have a large number of questions about how the PSI will work in practice. "There are legal issues, as well as political and diplomatic issues involved", an MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] official told The Times of India. "I don't think any decision will be taken on this in a hurry". The Indian delegation will be headed by Sheel Kant Sharma, head of MEA's disarmament division. Sujata Mehta, MEA joint secretary in charge of the US and the point person for the ongoing dialogue on 'Next Steps in Strategic Partnership' will also be part of the team.



**Japan: US Proposes Punishment for Transport, Delivery of WMD, Related Materials**

Unattributed, 29 Mar 04 in FBIS, FBIS Document ID JPP20040329000059, Reference:

JPP20040330000026, JPP20040218000083, "The United States Proposes 'Punishment for Ship Delivery' of WMD, WMD-Related Materials"

It was learned that the US Government presented a proposal to countries, including Japan, to revise treaties governing international regulations to combat pirates so that the act of transporting weapons of mass destruction [WMD] and WMD-related materials should be considered as a crime. The US Government also stressed pushing forward its efforts to conclude bilateral agreements with countries under which the ships are registered to allow vessel investigations to be conducted smoothly on the open seas. The United States aims to prove that the US-initiated "Proliferation Security Initiative" (PSI) has produced effects. Yet, it is likely that Japan will be pressed to respond to the proposal in a complicated way, since it raises legal issues. The United States presented its proposal to PSI member nations during a meeting of the fifth Plenary meeting of the PSI in Lisbon on 4-5 March. According to several Japanese Government officials, the United States commented on revision of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (the so-called sea jacking prevention law). It proposed that member nations should start debates toward a revision during meetings of a Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization slated for April in London. The US proposal aims to broaden the scope of cases eligible for punishment from sea jackings to those, such as terrorist attacks on ships and the transportation of WMD and WMD-related materials. The US proposal calls for allowing maritime police organs of the signatories to conduct ship investigations on foreign-flagged ships or to seize them on the open waters without consent of the countries, under which those ships are registered, if the organs have sufficient evidence of WMD deliveries. In addition, the United States revealed that it had signed an agreement with Liberia in February, which is home to many vessels registered there for tax purposes. This agreement allows the United States to obtain consent easily for investigations or seizures of ships flying the Liberian flag on the open seas. It is said that the United States is currently conducting negotiations with about 20 countries, such as Panama and Cyprus. The United States intends to create a system that allows searches of ships suspected of carrying WMD or WMD-related materials and their confiscation even on the open seas. Nevertheless, the so-called "sea jacking prevention law" is designed to secure the safety of maritime navigation. Several PSI member states have raised questions about the US proposal, saying that "whether transportation of WMD-related materials will have an adverse influence on the safety of other ships." The Government of Japan intends to study the proposal cautiously as a member of the PSI participating countries, saying, "We support the idea, but it raises many legal issues, since the proposal views the transportation of goods, which are approved as trade goods under international law, as illegal." It said that at this point in time, the United States has showed no moves to seek an agreement with Japan to allow boardings.

STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE REDUCTIONS TREATY (SORT) (THE MOSCOW TREATY)**Minuteman ICBMs Soldier on As Peacekeepers Get Mothballed**

American Forces Press Service, DefenseLink March 26, 2004 <http://www.dod.mil/news/>

The U.S. military will upgrade its Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles while retiring its Peacekeeper missile force, a senior officer told a Senate subcommittee March 25. The larger, multinuclear-warhead-carrying Peacekeeper ICBMs are being decommissioned as part of the Moscow Treaty brokered between the United States and Russia in May 2002. "With Peacekeeper deactivation proceeding as planned, the Air Force has implemented an aggressive life extension program for the Minuteman III ICBM force to ensure weapon system reliability through 2020," Navy Adm. James O. Ellis Jr. explained to members of the Senate Strategic Forces Subcommittee. Ellis heads the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., which oversees U.S. military global strategic planning, including nuclear deterrence. Ellis noted "reliability upgrades" would be performed on the Minuteman III's critical components. These, he said, include replacement of the missile's guidance and propulsion systems. First deployed in 1986, the Peacekeeper is a four-stage rocket system designed to carry 10 nuclear warheads, according to a U.S. STRATCOM fact sheet. There are now about 50 Peacekeepers. The Minuteman, a smaller, three-stage rocket system, has undergone numerous improvements since it was first deployed in the early 1960s, according to STRATCOM. The Minuteman III version, deployed in 1970, was designed to carry three nuclear warheads, according to an Air Force fact sheet, but a 1992 arms treaty reduced its payload to one warhead. About 500 Minuteman IIIs are in the U.S. nuclear arsenal, according to STRATCOM. Ellis said the Minuteman III will become America's sole land-based nuclear-warhead carrying ICBM system after the Peacemaker is retired. President Bush and Russian





President Vladimir Putin signed the Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions, an arms-control agreement that called for the two countries to substantially reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals over the next 10 years, on May 24, 2002, in Moscow.

U.S.-IAEA ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

Ratification of the U.S. Protocol Between the United States and the IAEA

U.S. Department of State Press Statement, April 1, 2004, <http://www.state.gov>

On February 11, the President asked the Senate to act immediately on ratification of the U.S. Additional Protocol between the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We are very pleased that the Senate, with the able leadership of Chairman Lugar and Senator Biden, overwhelmingly agreed March 31 to consent to ratification of the Protocol. The Senate's action will give us a stronger foundation from which to encourage other states to adopt the Protocol. It is essential for states to adopt the Additional Protocol in order to give the IAEA strengthened verification tools to deal with clandestine nuclear weapons programs.

Updated Status of International Conventions, Safeguards Additional Protocol

International Atomic Energy Agency Staff Report, 30 March 2004 <http://www.iaea.org>

Mexico this week signed an Additional Protocol to its safeguards agreement with the IAEA, bringing to 82 the number of countries that have signed the protocol for strengthened safeguards measures. Regarding international conventions, several countries recently notified the IAEA of their decisions to join global conventions on aspects of safety and security. Mexico's Additional Protocol - which was signed 29 March in Vienna by Mexico's Minister of Energy, Ambassador Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, and IAEA Director General ElBaradei - was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors at its recent meetings in March. To date, 82 countries have signed Additional Protocols to their safeguards agreements with the IAEA. However, only 39 Additional Protocols have entered into force. The Additional Protocol is a legal document granting the IAEA complementary inspection authority to that provided in underlying safeguards agreements. A principal aim is to enable the IAEA inspectorate to provide assurance about both declared and possible undeclared activities. Regarding international conventions under IAEA auspices, countries that recently notified the IAEA of decision to join include:

Lithuania, which deposited its instrument of ratification 16 March 2004 for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

Qatar, which deposited its instrument of accession 9 March 2004 for the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Algeria, which deposited its instruments of ratification 15 January 2004 for the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Emergency, as well as for the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident





Pakistan government cleared in selling of nuclear material

The Washington Times, March 31, 2004, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/>

A Pakistani network that covertly sold nuclear goods used government aircraft but the Islamabad government was not involved in the transactions, a senior State Department official told Congress yesterday.

John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, said the network led by A.Q. Khan sold nuclear material to Iran, North Korea, Libya and other states. The group, which helped rogue states obtain centrifuges used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, is still being investigated.

"Based on the information we have now, we believe that the proliferation activities that Mister Khan confessed to recently, his activities in Libya, in Iran and North Korea, and perhaps elsewhere, were activities that he was carrying on without the approval of the top levels of the government of Pakistan," Mr. Bolton said in testimony before the House International Relations Committee. "That is the position that President [Pervez] Musharraf has taken, and we have no evidence to the contrary."

Mr. Bolton said, however, that officials working for the Pakistani government at the Khan Research Laboratories and probably in the military participated in the network's covert sales.

The officials "probably enriched themselves just as Khan himself did," he said.

The activities were carried out independent of state sponsorship or approval and yet the "black market in weapons of mass destruction" was "extraordinary successful," he said.

Asked by Rep. Gary L. Ackerman, New York Democrat, about reports that Pakistani military aircraft ferried nuclear goods from Pakistan to North Korea, Mr. Bolton said the aircraft may have been operated outside official military control.

"The understanding we have is that Khan Research Laboratories had extraordinary autonomy and quite likely could use military aircraft for purposes that others in the military would not necessarily know the purpose of because of compartmentation of the information," Mr. Bolton said.

Mr. Bolton said that if information surfaced linking the Pakistani government to the transfers, "we would act on it" and impose sanctions.

Mr. Musharraf fired Mr. Khan, the father of the Pakistani nuclear weapons program, as head of the nuclear laboratory in 2000 and pardoned him last month after he confessed to the nuclear black market extending from Southeast Asia, to the Middle East to Europe.

The pardon is conditional on the scientist halting the nuclear transfers and fully cooperating in revealing the extent of the nuclear proliferation, Mr. Bolton said. "We believe those conditions are currently being met," he said.

On North Korea, Mr. Bolton said the administration is negotiating with Pyongyang to end its nuclear arms programs, including a plutonium-based bomb program and a covert uranium-based program.

Mr. Bolton also said steps have been taken to cut off North Korea's funding sources for its nuclear arms program, and its missile programs.

On Iran, Mr. Bolton said scrutiny by the International Atomic Energy Agency, has not led to an end of Tehran's nuclear arms program.

"The recent discovery of Iran's development and testing of uranium enrichment centrifuges of an advanced design is a clear indicator that Iran continues its quest for nuclear weapons," Mr. Bolton said.

Iran's nuclear and missile programs are "one of the most serious proliferation challenges we face today," he said, noting that Tehran is engaged in a "massive denial and deception program" designed to fool the world.





U.S. Advocates “Incremental” Nuclear Disarmament

Global Security Newswire, March 30, 2004, http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/

Facing apparent foreign criticism that U.S. policies are undermining global nuclear nonproliferation efforts, a senior U.S. diplomat last week said that a newly emerged “nexus” of terrorism and illicit WMD development argues for “incremental,” unregimented nuclear disarmament.

“Events of the past few years have introduced a new and destabilizing unpredictability into world affairs,” Ambassador Jackie Sanders, the senior U.S. representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said in a speech Thursday to the conference.

The new threat “poses a risk to the very pillars of civilization,” Sanders said.

She added, “These developments do not mean the nuclear disarmament process needs to stop. ... But it illustrates the obvious point that disarmament of any type does not take place in an international security vacuum and reinforces the conclusion that sweeping, unfocused approaches to disarmament such as a nuclear weapons convention or setting timetables are illusory and will not work.”

“As history teaches us, progress will come only through incremental approaches that take account of states’ threat perceptions,” she said.

U.S. Policies Criticized

Sanders’ comments followed speeches at the conference earlier this month by representatives of friendly nations who appeared to criticize the United States indirectly for pursuing policies perceived counter to its commitments to move toward nuclear disarmament.

The discussion comes as parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty prepare for a major review conference next year. Article 6 of the treaty requires parties to work “in good faith” toward nuclear disarmament and, in the even longer term, toward “general and complete disarmament.”

At a 1995 treaty review conference, the nations permitted by the treaty to possess nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom — agreed to move toward eventual nuclear disarmament in exchange for a permanent extension to the treaty. At the 2000 review, the five powers agreed to take 13 steps toward disarmament.

Critics have charged the United States with making insufficient progress on those commitments, citing research and development of new nuclear weapons capabilities, a 2002 strategic policy document that identified certain non-nuclear countries as potential nuclear-weapons targets, and the U.S. refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,

In a March 16 statement to the conference, Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds appeared to restate that concern, though without identifying the United States directly.

“We see a trend toward increased emphasis on nuclear weapons as part of security strategies and signs that a new generation of nuclear weapons might be in the making,” according to a released text of her speech.

“Such pursuits would undermine the credibility of the nuclear nonproliferation regime and could prompt a new arms race,” she said.

Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham, in a speech delivered that same day, said his government would be “pressing hard” for progress on the 1995 deal and said failure could encourage proliferation, according to a released text of his speech.

“Without progress toward nuclear disarmament, it will be very difficult to keep non-nuclear countries from seeing nuclear weapons as [a means of] deterrence or even to obtain political prestige,” he said.





Similarly, Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen in a released text called progress on disarmament and nonproliferation “mutually reinforcing.”

He added, “There is a tendency for some members of the treaty to stress its nonproliferation aspects to the neglect of the disarmament provisions of the NPT.”

U.S. Examples of Progress

In her address last week, Sanders listed a number of U.S. policy developments that she said demonstrate a “strong U.S. record” on nuclear arms reduction.

She said the United States in the 1990s withdrew from service “large numbers” of nonstrategic weapons, dismantled more than 13,000 nuclear weapons, and with Russia removed large quantities of fissile material from military stockpiles.

During the Bush administration, she continued, the United States signed a 2002 treaty with Russia to withdraw from operational deployment all but a maximum of 2,200 strategic warheads by the end of 2012.

“This reflects a commitment at the highest political level in both countries to Article 6 implementation,” she said.

Critics, though, have said that the latest treaty requires no destruction of any weapons and that the off-loaded warheads could be quickly returned to service.

Sanders also cited a policy outlined in the administration’s 2002 Nuclear Posture Review to focus less on overwhelming nuclear retaliation against Russia, and more on pursuing a variety of nuclear capabilities including low-yield weapons for addressing other threats, as well as conventional weapons, national missile defense and “revitalized defense infrastructure.”

The approach “represents an historic break from the past,” she said, adding that by integrating non-nuclear weapons into offensive strategic capabilities, the United States is “thereby reducing dependence on nuclear weapons.”

Critics have charged the opposite, saying the administration’s interest in developing less-destructive, lower-yield weapons and weapons for destroying chemical and biological agents, could increase the prospect of nuclear use.

Ireland’s Cowen appeared to echo that concern, saying the development of new types or new uses for nuclear weapons “suggests that the taboo on the use of such weapons could be weakened.”

Sweden’s Freivalds said military planners could be tempted to use “nonstrategic” nuclear weapons as “battlefield weapons” and that “blurring the lines between conventional weapons and nonstrategic nuclear weapons would lower the threshold against the use of nuclear weapons.”

Citing the global proliferation of underground bunkers that might offer defense against nuclear attack, U.S. officials have argued that lower-yield weapons could be useful for threatening foreign leaders who either do not value the welfare of their people and would risk overwhelming retaliation, or who believe the United States would not strike a populated area with large-scale nuclear weapons. The Bush administration also is studying improving a high-yield earth-penetrating weapon, citing an inability to strike very deeply buried bunkers.

“Greater flexibility is needed with respect to nuclear forces and planning than was the case during the Cold War,” said the Nuclear Posture Review.

“Today’s nuclear arsenal continues to reflect its Cold War origin, characterized by moderate delivery accuracy, limited earth penetrator capability, high-yield warheads, silo- and sea-based ballistic missiles with multiple independent reentry vehicles, and limited retargeting capability,” it said.

Better Climate Needed

Sanders said that non-nuclear states share a responsibility for creating an international climate to enable nuclear-armed states to reduce their stockpiles.





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"While the nuclear weapon states have the primary responsibility to pursue measures related to nuclear disarmament, all parties can contribute meaningfully toward that goal by helping to fashion an international environment that is conducive to a reduced reliance on nuclear weapons and to their eventual elimination," she said.

"Achieving nuclear disarmament is a gradual process that will be long and difficult. Political realities and changes in science and technology are among the factors that make it so," she said.

